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Counting down for STS-122 launch at 4:31 p.m. today

Expedition 16 crew readies the space station for Atlantis' arrival

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Wednesday's countdown briefing presented the following information:

- ◆ No major issues are being worked.
- ◆ A small ground-side leak developed in a vent system on the hydrogen side of the reactant system. The team will continue to look at it, but it is not significant.
 - A leak isn't seen when there isn't cold gas on the system.
 - The shuttle team would only have to deal with this if there was a scrub turnaround.
 - There is no impact to launch and the hold times are still good.
- ◆ The team is wrapping up checkouts and final inspections of the external tank.
- ◆ The rotating service structure was scheduled for rollback at 8 p.m. Wednesday.
- ◆ NASA is still trying to protect the possibility of extending the mission at least one day to add an additional spacewalk.
- ◆ Most of the items being loaded in the orbiter at this stage are food items, a time-critical mid-deck experiment, and various crew supplies to the mid-deck.

◆ **ISS Update:** The Expedition 16 crew aboard the International Space Station continues preparations for the arrival of space shuttle Atlantis, scheduled to launch on the STS-122 mission at 4:31 p.m. today.

On Monday, the crew reviewed robotics plans and collected tools for use during the STS-122 spacewalks.

The crew also worked with the Coarsening in Solid Liquid Mixtures-2 experiment, which examines the effects of microgravity on a phenomenon called coarsening.

On Dec. 1, a final leak check of the vestibule between Harmony and Destiny proved that there is an air-tight seal and no degradation of pressure. After a 17-hour test, the leak rate was reported to be insignificant.

■ Salvation Army Christmas Stockings



— This is the last week of the Christmas stocking drive. Please return your filled stockings to your point of contact by Dec. 12. If you have any questions or do not have a stocking and would like to fill one, please contact Sandra Getter at 867-6951.

■ Massage Therapy Holiday Discount

— Through Jan. 4, a 30-minute massage is only \$20. If you have any questions, you can contact Valerie (L.M.T. #19362) at 867-4762 or Valerie.s.jaramillo@nasa.gov. Hours of operation are 9 - 5 p.m. weekdays (hours are flexible) in the O&C Building/Room 1023. Gift certificates are available and make great holiday gifts.



■ Christmas Ornaments and Decorations in the Workplace

— It's the most wonderful time of the year, and we love the warm feelings that ornaments and decorations bring us. To help ensure everyone has a safe Christmas season, here are some guidelines:

- ◆ No furnishings, decorations or other objects should obstruct an exit, the visibility of exits, access to exits or egress from exits.
- ◆ No furnishings, decorations or other objects should obstruct fire extinguishers or fire alarm pull boxes, or interfere with the normal activation of a sprinkler system.
- ◆ No explosive or highly flammable furnishings or decorations should be used.
- ◆ All electrical devices must have a UL or FM listing, and must be plugged directly into wall outlets.
- ◆ Live Christmas trees are not authorized.

If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Chief Carlray Boswell at 476-5520.

■ Last Reminder To Save/Send Your Yoplait Yogurt Lids

— The Space Coast Chapter of Federally Employed Women is collecting pink Yoplait yogurt lids through Dec. 31 to send to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. For every pink lid mailed in, Yoplait will donate 10 cents to the Foundation, up to \$1.5 million. Please wash your lids and forward them to Sandra Getter, Community Outreach Chairwoman, NE-E8.

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